WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A system for identifying an application located at a remote computer, said system comprising:

a profile server connected to said remote computer via a network, said profile server including an extension module, and said profile server being adapted for sending said extension module and data to and receiving data from said remote computer; and

a remote computer connected to said profile server via said network, said remote computer including a remote application adapted for receiving said extension module from said profile server and executing said extension module; said remote application further being adapted for sending data to and receiving data from said profile server;

wherein said remote computer includes at least one installed application component and said extension module is adapted for identifying that said application component is installed on said remote computer.

2.   A system according to claim 1, wherein said extension module includes a plurality of executable functions and said extension module is adapted for identifying that said application component is installed on said remote computer by executing a plurality of said executable functions in a predefined sequence.

3.   A system according to claim 2, wherein said predefined sequence is received from said profile server.

4.   A system according to claim 2 wherein said predefined sequence is included with said extension module.

5.   A system according to claim 2 wherein at least one of said executable functions is adapted for searching for a predefined file installed on said remote computer.

6.   A system according to claim 1 wherein said remote application is a browser application adapted for displaying data received from said profile server.

7.   A system according to claim 6 wherein said extension module is a plug-in module for said browser application.

5   8.   A system according to claim 1 wherein said profile server sends data to said extension module representative of command instructions which instruct said extension module to search for application components installed on said remote computer.

9.   A system according to claim 8 wherein said command instructions sent by said profile server to said extension
10   module in XML format.

10.   A system for configuring an application located at a remote computer, said system comprising:

        a profile server connected to said remote computer via a network, said profile server including an extension module, and said profile server being adapted for sending said extension module and data to and receiving data from

15   said remote computer; and

        a remote computer connected to said profile server via said network, said remote computer including a remote application adapted for receiving said extension module from said profile server and executing said extension module; said remote application further being adapted for sending data to and receiving data from said profile server;

20   wherein said remote computer includes at least one installed application program and said extension module is adapted for configuring said application program according to a predefined application configuration.

11.   A system according to claim 10, wherein said extension module includes a plurality of executable functions and said extension module is adapted for configuring said application installed on said remote computer by
25   executing a plurality of said executable functions in a predefined sequence.

12.   A system according to claim 11, wherein said predefined sequence is received from said profile server.

13.   A system according to claim 11 wherein said predefined sequence is included with said extension module.

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14.   A system according to claim 11 wherein at least one of said executable functions is adapted for

modifying a predefined file installed on said remote computer.

15.   A system according to claim 10 wherein said remote application is a browser application adapted for

10   displaying data received from said profile server.

16.   A system according to claim 15 wherein said extension module is a plug-in module for said browser

application.

15   17.   A system according to claim 10 wherein said profile server includes command instructions and said profile

server is adapted for sending data to said extension module representative of said command instructions which

instruct said extension module to modify a predefined file installed on said remote computer.

18.   A system according to claim 17 wherein said profile server is adapted for sending said command

20   instructions to said extension module in XML format.

19.   A system for identifying and configuring an application located at a remote computer, said system

comprising:

a profile server connected to said remote computer via a network, said profile server including an extension

module, and said profile server being adapted for sending said extension module and data to and receiving data from

5   said remote computer; and

a remote computer connected to said profile server via said network, said remote computer including a

remote application adapted for receiving said extension module from said profile server and executing said

extension module; said remote application further being adapted for sending data to and receiving data from said

profile server;

10   wherein said remote computer includes at least one installed application component and said extension module is

adapted for identifying that said application component is installed on said remote computer and for configuring

said application according to a predefined application configuration.

20.   A system according to claim 19, wherein said extension module includes a plurality of executable

15   functions and said extension module is adapted for identifying that said application component is installed on said

remote computer and for configuring said application installed on said remote computer by executing a plurality of

said executable functions in a predefined sequence.

21.   A system according to claim 20, wherein said predefined sequence is received from said profile server.

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22.   A system according to claim 20 wherein said predefined sequence is included with said extension

module.

23.   A system according to claim 20 wherein at least one of said executable functions is adapted searching for

a predefined file installed on said remote computer and at least one of said executable functions is adapted for

modifying a predefined file installed on said remote computer.

5   24.   A system according to claim 19 wherein said remote application is a browser application adapted for

displaying data received from said profile server.

25.   A system according to claim 24 wherein said extension module is a plug-in module for said browser

application.

10   26.   A system according to claim 19 wherein said profile server includes command instructions and said

profile server is adapted for sending data to said extension module representative of said command instructions

which instruct said extension module to search for and modify a predefined file installed on said remote computer.

15   27.   A system according to claim 26 wherein said profile server is adapted for sending said command

instructions to said extension module in XML format.

28.   A system according to claim 19 where said extension module is adapted for prompting a user of said

remote computer for authorization to configure said application.

29.   A method of identifying an application located on a remote computer, said method comprising the steps

of:

A) establishing a connection between a profile server and said remote computer;

5   B) transferring an extension module to said remote computer;

D) executing a discovery function of the extension module on said remote computer and generating data

representative of the installed [applications and/or] application components and configurations on said remote

computer;

E) transferring said data representative of the installed [applications,]application components, and/or

10   configurations to said profile server;

30.   The method according to claim 29 further comprising the steps of:

F) querying a user of said remote computer to select which installed applications and/or application

components said user desires to be configured;

15   G) for each installed application and/or application component, analyzing the data representative of the

installed application and/or application component to determine the proper configuration for each;

H) transferring configuration data to the end user computer;

I) executing a configuration module of said extension module to configure each installed application and/or

application component selected by the end user;

20   K) generating and transferring data representative of the results of configuration of each application and/or

application component;

L) reporting the results of the configuration to the end user; and

M) storing the results of the process.

31   .A method of identifying and configuring an application located on a remote computer, said method

comprising the steps of:

A) establishing a connection between a profile server and said remote computer;

B) transferring an extension module to said remote computer;

D) executing a discovery function of the extension module on said remote computer and generating data

representative of the installed [applications and/or] application components and configurations on said remote

computer;

E) for each installed application and/or application component, analyzing the data representative of the

installed application and/or application component to determine the proper configuration for each;

F) transferring configuration data to the end user computer;

G) executing a configuration function of said extension module to configure each installed application

and/or application component selected by the end user.

32.   The method according to claim 31 further comprising the steps of:

H) generating and transferring data representative of the results of configuration of each application and/or

application component;

I) reporting the results of the configuration to the end user; and

J) storing the results of the process.

33.   The method according to claim 31, after step D) executing the discovery function, further comprising the

steps of:

D1) transferring said data representative of the installed [applications,]application components, and/or

configurations to said profile server; and

D2) querying a user of said remote computer to select which installed applications and/or application

components said user desires to be configured;

34.   An apparatus for identifying an application located on a remote computer comprising:

a profile server connected to said remote computer via a network, said profile server including at least one

extension module adapted to be received by said remote computer and executed by an application located on said

remote computer, a database of discovery instructions, adapted to be used by said extension module to identify at

5   least one application located at said remote computer.

35.   An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said profile server further includes a database of

configuration instruction adapted to be used by said extension module to configure at least one application located

at said remote computer.